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Better ways of thinking, feeling, and acting—around problems of meaning and meaninglessness; self and society; ethics, purpose, and value.

A *work in progress*: for email notifications of new pages, **please subscribe!**

Read more about *Meaningness*, my other web sites, and me.

You may prefer listening to the audio book, rather than reading.

Book contents

Click on the colored triangles to expand or collapse section contents.
Pages marked with ⚒ are unfinished.

Why meaningness?

Informally introducing the central themes of the Meaningness book.

Stances: responses to meaningness

The overall conceptual framework: "stances" are simple patterns of thinking and feeling about meaningness.

Meaning and meaninglessness

Eternalism fixates meaning; nihilism denies it. Recognizing that meaning is both nebulous and patterned resolves this false dichotomy.

Unity and diversity

Stances concerning connection and separateness: monism, dualism, and participation.

Selfness

Abandoning selflessness and egoism equally, we can play with the ambiguous self/other boundary; supple, skillful selfing for successful, satisfying interaction.

Purpose

Dividing purposes into higher and mundane, mission pursues higher ends and rejects pragmatism; materialism seeks only selfish goals. Both are mistakes.

⚒ Personal value

Agonizing over whether you are ordinary or special—or feeling smug about one or the other—can be resolved by choosing to be noble instead.

⚒ Capability

Resolving a false dichotomy between unrealistic views: being a helpless victim and being totally responsible for your circumstances.

⚒ Ethics

Available ethical theories are either eternalist or nihilist; both are useless. We must recognize that ethics are both nebulous and meaningful.

⚒ Authority

A better alternative to the dysfunctional stances of mindlessly opposing authority and mindlessly obeying.

⚒ Sacredness

Resolving the twin delusions that nothing is sacred and that the only sacred things are those designated by some authority.

Meaningness and Time: past, present, future

The problems of meaningness we face now are dramatically different from those of the past. We also sense new opportunities, and have new resources.

Appendices

A series of appendices, including a glossary and suggestions for further reading elsewhere.

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